



bay restoration commission

STEWARDS OF SANTA MONICA BAY

santa monica bay restoration commission 320 west 4th street, ste 200; los angeles, california 90013
213/576-6615 phone 213/576-6646 fax santamonica bay.org

4/25/2014

Molly Martin
U.S. EPA, Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Ms. Martin:

Attached is the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission's semi- annual progress report for the time period October 1, 2013 – March 31, 2014. The Report addresses activities funded under the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation Agreement with U.S. EPA and match funds obtained from other sources including the State Water Resources Control Board, the State Coastal Conservancy, and among others.

Please do not hesitate to contact us for additional documentation you want to see or any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

Shelley Luce
Executive Director

our mission: to restore and enhance the santa monica bay through actions and partnerships that improve water quality, conserve and rehabilitate natural resources, and protect the bay's benefits and values



TASK 1. Water Resources and Quality Improvement

Task 1.1 – Oversee Prop 12, 50, 84 bond-funded grants

Summary:

Prop 50

- Arroyo Sequit Restoration – This project is a collaborative project carried out jointly by a team of staff from TBF and the State Parks. The team has secured final permits and completed design and engineering. MP/QAPP/PAEP drafts are under development.
- Culver City's City-Wide Best Management Practices (BMP) Treatment Train - Installation of all rain gardens, catch basin trash screens, and trash/recycling bins has been completed. Time Extension approved to complete trash capture installation and conduct project monitoring.

Prop 84

- Manhattan Beach Greenbelt Low Flow Infiltration - Construction completed. Final report and invoice received. Project completed.
- Torrance Stormwater Basin Enhancements - Engineering/Design complete. Project out for bid.
- MRCA Milton Street - Engineering/Design complete. Project out for bid.
- Inglewood Trash Capture - Time extension approved to install additional trash capture devices.
- Santa Monica In-line Storm Drain Runoff Infiltration Demo Project - Construction completed. Project is undergoing performance monitoring.
- Calabasas Trash Capture - Construction completed. Project is undergoing performance monitoring.
- City of L.A. Vermont Ave. Green street project - Governing Board approved recommendation for funding of the project. Grant agreement being developed.

Prop 12

- Rindge Dam Removal Feasibility Study - Continued to work with Army Corps, State Parks, and other partners to complete study by December 2015.

Next steps:

Continue to meet with grantees, process project reports, invoices, etc. Monitor progress of all projects.

Status:

On-going

Task 1.2 – Facilitate development and implementation of water quality regulations in the Bay watershed

Summary:

Los Angeles County Municipal Storm Water NPDES Permit (MS4) - Hold meeting and discussed with Regional Board staff regarding how SMBRC could help MS4 permittees comply with the permit requirements, especially the development of the Enhanced Watershed Management Plans (EWMP). Attended the meetings of the EWMP Technical Advisory Committee.

Marina del Rey Toxics TMDL – TBF Boater Education Program staff assisted the Regional Board in outreach to Marina managers and disseminated information about the proposed TMDL amendment to address copper contamination.

Next Steps:

Continue to participate in the MS4 and TMDL stakeholder process.

Status:

On-going

Task 1.3 – Facilitate comprehensive watershed management

Summary:

IRWMP – Continued to attend local IRWMP meetings to monitor bond funding through the IRWMP process as well as monitor the progress in the IRWMP plan update process. Worked with LA County Flood Control District staff and presented IRWMP to the Executive Committee with the focus on IRWMP funded projects and future opportunity to collaborate with IRWMP in funding and implementing multi-benefit projects in the Bay watershed.

Next Steps:

Continue participation on relevant IRWMP stakeholder and technical advisory groups.

Status:

Ongoing

Task 1.4 – Implement green infrastructure and LID projects in targeted watersheds

Metropolitan Innovative Conservation Program – Applied and awarded grant from the Metropolitan Water District to retrofit several commercial properties with various rainwater harvesting strategies. The grant will run through 2016 and was awarded to conserve potable water by replacing lawns with native rain gardens to infiltrate stormwater runoff and decrease pollution. Additional strategies (e.g. cisterns, barrels, curb cuts, etc) will be implemented on a property-specific basis. Began work on site selection for implementation.

LMU Rain Garden - Continued monthly maintenance and removal of non-native vegetation and partnership with LMU.

WaterLA - Developed a partnership with WaterLA to implement public and residential water-harvesting strategies that focus on lawn removal, native gardens, rain barrel installation, curb cutting, and other drought tolerant methods.

Parking Lots Retrofits in the Parkland - Staff worked with NPS and State Parks to develop Low Impact Development projects on State and Federal properties in the Santa Monica Mountains. Examples include bioswales at packing facilities and improving trails where runoff is impacting local streams.

Next Steps:

Continue rain garden maintenance and implement the MWD rain garden project.

Status:

Ongoing

Task 1.5 – Climate Change Adaptation and Climate Ready Estuary (CRE)

Continued to participate in the meetings of the Los Angeles Regional Climate Change Adaptation Collaborative (LARC) to communicate the study to local stakeholders and facilitate exchange of climate change adaptation information in general. Continued to participate in Adapt LA, the climate change vulnerability assessment project conducted by USC Sea Grant for the City of Los Angeles. Helped Sea Grant staff to write the section of report on potential vulnerability of Ballona Wetlands.

Collaborated with LARC, USC Sea Grant, City of Santa Monica, Heal the Bay and other stakeholder organizations in applying a grant from Coastal Conservancy under its Local Coastal Plan Sea Level Rise Adaptation Grant Program. The project will conduct a regional sea level rise and coastal storms study to examine coastal erosion and shoreline change along the Los Angeles region coastline to enhance sea level rise planning and protection of coastal assets, populations, and economies of participating jurisdictions along Santa Monica Bay, and build capacity of regional stakeholders and develop and engage in training opportunities offered by experts in science, physical, and social vulnerability assessment. Specifically, staff conducted extensive outreach and brought on board all coastal municipalities in Santa Monica Bay to participate in this project. Since awarding of the grant by Coastal Conservancy, staff has worked with the project team to hold kick-off meeting/information forum and design pre-project surveys.

Worked with UC Santa Barbara researchers and outreached to LA County Dept. of Beaches and Harbors, Chevron, State Parks, and City of Santa Monica for developing a pilot project and grant proposal for natural restoration of beach sand dune barriers as an adaptive measure against the potential impacts of sea level rise. Although the grant application was not awarded, increase in awareness of the issue and willingness to engage in future projects among stakeholders was achieved through the process.

Next Steps:

Continue collaborating with partners to carry out the Climate Ready project and seek funding opportunity for the dune restoration pilot project.

Status:

Ongoing

Task 1.6 – Clean Bay Restaurant Certification Program

Summary:

Attended monthly J5-J6 meetings in the South Bay (Hermosa Beach, Manhattan Beach, Redondo Beach, and Torrance) to coordinate 2014 outreach activities, collected current lists of certified restaurants and continued to request city inspectors to include contact information for owners and managers and used these lists and reached out to participating venues via email, letters, and phone for solicitation of program support and in-kind donations.

Attended one outreach event, the Manhattan Beach Hometown Fair, to promote the Program in the City of Manhattan Beach. Reported on the success of outreach events to the 7 cities Public Works Departments (during 2013 calendar year) including: Malibu Lagoon Opening Day, SeaFair, Malibu Food and Wine Festival, Festival Hermosa, Santa Monica Festival, 4th of July Festival, and Lobster Fest.

Other promotion activities included weekly Facebook and Twitter posts, press releases, and planning meetings with participating cities to coordinate outreach events throughout the coming year. Staff also began to develop a strategy to host a Clean Bay Restaurant Program Symposium/Conference in the Fall 2014, to inspire further meaningful participation in the Program, including City Inspectors, City's Public Works Department employees, and restaurant owners/managers.

Next Steps:

Continue updating certified restaurant list and SMBRF website, attend outreach events, maintain interactive booth, and maintain partnerships with participating restaurants.

Status:

Ongoing

TASK 2. Wetlands and Other Coastal Habitats Restoration

Task 2.1 – Facilitate Restoration of Priority Wetlands

Facilitation of Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve (BWER) Restoration Planning -

CEQA-NEPA: Continued work to create the first three chapters of the environmental documents for review by the project management team (PMT) with initial circulation in late January and revisions continuing through March. Continued preparation of the

Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP), O & M plan, revegetation and soil management plans necessary for environmental review and permitting of the restoration.

Continued to facilitated involvement and integration of the Annenberg design team into the framework for the on-going technical, environmental review, and permitting processes for the project. Continued to develop supporting information to be used in the analyses of the project and alternatives, including the Urban Ecology Center.

Coordinated a collection of additional soil quality testing necessitated by the findings of the Soil Quality Report. Developed information to address public comment regarding water quality, soil toxicity and cultural resources. Prepared and revised a variety of schedule scenarios for the project's EIR/S and permitting for the PMT.

Continued to facilitate discussions with the Army Corp. and County regarding EIS/EIR, 404, and 408 permit and application requirements, as well as the 214 funding mechanism to expedite Army Corp. review and coordination. Continued coordination with LA County Department of Public Works Executive and Flood Control Division staff to facilitate approval by the County Board of Supervisors of the inter-agency MOU in support of the 214 funding agreement.

Developed a new integrated, collaborative website design with project partners to be launched in Spring 2014 (www.ballonarestoration.org).

Ballona Wetlands Monitoring Program: SCC, the PMT, and the tech team for the EIR identified a needed product from the monitoring team which included a comprehensive, fine-scale, site-wide, geospatially rectified vegetation alliance and association survey. Building on the high resolution vegetation mapping completed in November 2013, in February 2014 a peer-reviewed technical memorandum was released which served as a site-specific reference to crosswalk the vegetation alliance and association data into habitat categories. The memorandum included figures summarizing current areal extent of habitat types and a breakdown of their composite vegetation alliances. End products also included GIS and KMZ maps, summary data tables and spreadsheets, and crosswalk descriptions. Biological language and technical review were also provided to the EIR team, the PMT, and CDWF for their Ballona Land Management Plan.

The fifth year of monitoring began on October 1, 2013. Surveys conducted over the past six months included: vegetation (submerged aquatic/algae and seed bank transects), herpetofauna, water quality (permanent data sonde), soil salinity & grain size, invertebrate (terrestrial laboratory analysis), CRAM, photo point, and vertebrate mortality surveys. A partnership with the IoES of UCLA began to assess the phytoplankton community at the BWER - laboratory assessments continue.

A part-time intern was hired to develop a framework and begin implementation of a long-term seed collection and storage project to maintain genetic diversity for a palette of plant species identified by the EIR tech team as likely candidates for re-planting following the future restoration.

Regional Wetland Monitoring L3 Development: Partnership/coordination continued with multiple Universities, the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project, the California Coastal Conservancy, and additional Wetland Recovery Project Groups to develop a regional estuarine wetland monitoring program. Standard Operating Procedures were developed, reviewed by a scientific advisory committee, and finalized for a suite of parameters and indicators. A QAPP was finalized and submitted to the EPA for the Wetland Program Development Grant. Additional wetland monitoring continues throughout the Southern California Bight.

Malibu Lagoon Restoration - Post-restoration monitoring continued at the Malibu Lagoon, specifically for water quality and circulation, CRAM, and photo point surveys. Work continued to finalize the full Monitoring Grant with State Parks to begin in 2014. Weeding and additional maintenance continued semi-weekly at the Lagoon.

An SMBRC staff member won the National Wetland Award in the category of Conservation and Restoration for work on the Malibu Lagoon restoration and stream restoration projects.

Wetland White Paper - Continued to revise draft literature review regarding the value of vegetated coastal marsh in compensatory mitigation for lost subtidal habitat.

Next Steps:

Continue to develop and review the BWER EIR Chapters; continue work on monitoring products; continue Malibu Lagoon maintenance & monitoring

Status:

In progress

Task 2.2 – Facilitate Stream Restoration and Protection

Culver City Rain Garden - Completed the enhancements of the commercial (south) side of the Creek, including increasing the infiltration and storage capacity and planting additional native species. Storm water monitoring was conducted on a 1.75-inch storm and tested for a full suite of water quality constituents and pollutants to test the effectiveness of the rain garden implementation. Continued maintenance and removal of non-native vegetation on the north (residential) side of the Creek. Coordinated six volunteer community restoration days.

Stone Canyon Creek Restoration - Continued monthly community restoration program at University Lab School and UCLA.

Invasive Species Control - Conducted annual New Zealand mudsnail survey in the Santa Monica Mountains met and coordinated with multiple agencies (NFWS, DFW, State Parks, NPS) to explore the potential for the use of biocontrol to manage New Zealand mudsnails.

Participated in red swamp crayfish management program and represented the SMBRC on the Science Advisory Committee for the multi-agency red swamp crayfish management program.

Red-Legged Frog Reintroduction - Conducted water quality monitoring along with State Parks and National Park System, for the endangered red-legged frog reintroduction program and represented the SMBRC on the TAC.

Next Steps:

Continue the community restoration program at Stone Canyon Creek and annual mudsnail survey.

Status:

Ongoing

Task 2.3 – Facilitate and coordinate watershed management and habitat restoration in the Ballona Creek watershed

Partnership with Water LA continued to test and implement residential rainwater-harvesting strategies.

Next Steps:

Continue to promote and participate in planning and restoration efforts with stakeholders and partners in the watershed.

Status:

Ongoing

TASK 3. Marine Habitat Protection and Restoration

Task 3.1 – Promote Marine Ecosystem Protection through Outreach and Information Sharing

Summary:

Socio Economic Research related to Marine Spatial Planning - Conducted twice monthly flights of the mainland coast of southern California to accurately map the location, type and activity of vessels operating in state waters, (out to three miles). Preliminary results of the Aerial Monitoring were presented at the annual meeting of the Western Society of Naturalists in Oxnard California November 7th 2013. Additional presentation was made at Loyola Marymount University March 12th 2014 at the Socio-Economic Analyses of Coastal Ecosystem Resilience Symposium. The same results were also used in lectures for an Introduction to Environmental Science Course at Loyola Marymount University. These data will eventually inform resource managers tasked with adaptive management of a network of MPAs as to responses in boating resulting from the establishment of that network.

The Los Angeles MPA Collaborative - Continued to participate in meetings of this group and discussed sign placement, monitoring and enforcement challenges. A proposal is being drafted to develop a guide to LA County fish spots in a post MPA landscape.

Next Steps:

Continue aerial ocean vessel survey and monitoring

Status:

Ongoing

Task 3.2 – Conduct Research of Important Marine Habitats and Species

Sea Grass - A pre-proposal was submitted to California Sea Grant to determine the community level difference(s) between sea grass beds in relation to their distance from rocky reef complexes. The status, distribution and location of these important sea grass beds, federally recognized as essential fish habitat are poorly understood in our study region.

Cetaceans - Through the Aerial Monitoring of Ocean Vessels in Southern California program we have begun mapping the great whales observed on our surveys. These data which define the location, species and activities of the whales will be compiled and analyzed and will inform numerous regulatory agencies on management actions related to the Marine Mammal Protection Act and Endangered Species Act.

Abalone Restoration Research - The private stocking permit required to outplant green abalone was approved by CDFW. A partnership agreement with the Department is being drafted. Wild broodstock animals are being conditioned at the SEA Lab. Refinement of devices to transport and inoculate outplanting sites also continued. This grant was extended through the end of September 2015. The field implementation phase of this project will begin in the summer of 2014 through the fall of 2015. The first spawning is planned in the next few months.

Halibut Sexing Project - Completed data analysis and final report.

Next Steps:

Continue to carry out abalone recovery project.

Status:

In progress

Task 3.3 – Restore and Enhance Rocky Reef Habitat

MSRP Urchin Removal/Kelp Restoration - Teams of restoration divers (SCUBA) have been clearing the ocean floor of excess sea urchins 4.5 acres of reef were cleared of greater than 600,000 purple sea urchins to reduce densities of purple sea urchins to a target of two per square meter. This reduction in density of purple sea urchins, directly reduces the rate of herbivory allowing for the development of numerous species of macroalgae. Pre-restoration and post-restoration monitoring have been conducted. Early results from this work are already apparent with average densities of purple urchins (pre and post restoration) at 38.2 and 1.8 respectively. In each of the four sites that restoration work has been conducted several species of macroalgae are developing and a few noteworthy giant kelp individuals that achieved 40 feet in height in the course of a few months. Further surveys to quantify and qualify these macroalgae will be conducted in the summer and fall of 2014.

Next Steps:

Continue the MSRP urchin removal/kelp restoration project.

Status:

In Progress

TASK 4. Education and Outreach

Task 4.1 – Implement the SMBRC outreach strategy

Summary:

Ballona Wetlands Outreach - Participated in local Farmer's Markets, educating community members on the significance of wetlands and their ecosystem services, as well as the importance of public participation. Featured in the Mar Vista Farmer's Market Green Tent, and presented at the Water Replenishment District's popular Groundwater Festival. Production for outreach and education videos began in January lead by an LMU student intern. Continued to recruit local students (both high school and university level) as well as post grads for internships and engage/inform the public about the BWER restoration process and the SMBRC/TBF.

Multiple tours were given of the BWER, including to elected officials and students from multiple Universities. An overview of SMBRC's monitoring practices and its long-term, science-based plan for wetlands restoration was presented to the AP Environmental Science/Lab Biology class of St. Bernard High School in November, and to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority's Junior Naturalists program in December. An on-site presentation of the wetlands was given to Nancy Stoner of the EPA in February and to members of the U.S. Green Building Council in March. Presentations were made to the Annenberg Foundation, the faculty and students of Concordia University, faculty and students of UC Irvine, the Marina Del Rey's Managers Group, the Sierra Club's Angeles Chapter, and to students of LMU and UCLA. Interviews were given to Al Jazeera, Argonaut, Daily Breeze, LA Register, and other local media. Social media (Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram) were used to promote and highlight events, and to cross-promote partner events.

Continued quarterly Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project and e-newsletter. This publication will move to a frequency of monthly or bimonthly as the EIR progress continues and requires public input.

Santa Monica Bay NEP 25th Anniversary Celebration - Worked with the TBF Board and event planner in planning , branding/messaging, and overall management of the Oct. 17th event. Reached out to the media about event and garnered greater publicity for our organization. For the purpose of the 25th anniversary celebration, made, showed at the event and posted online 25 videos of people talking about their stories about the Bay.

News media outreach – Prepared and distributed eight news releases for SMBRC/TBF events, program, and publications including the 25th anniversary (pre and post), the 25 Days to Love the Bay, the Sustainable Seafood Panel, the annual Urban Coast Research Symposium, the Culver City rain garden, the Boater Guide eBook, and the kelp restoration project . Also, general coverage/interviews on The Bay Foundation were arranged and aired on the California Channel, ESPN Radio, Radio Disney. In addition, six articles were published in local newspapers facilitated by SMBRF staff.

Made individual pitches for stories to universities that our staff has been associated with. Each staff member has impressive schooling and is doing unique work in his/her field. As a result, to date three stories have published, another two are committed, and one story led directly to a staff member being invited to give a talk at TEDxLSU.

Coordinated with regional EPA Public Relations person to invite media for and set up tour at Ballona in relation to EPA climate change message. Media attended and at least two articles resulted. Also, coordinated with regional DFW Public Relations person to invite media for and set up tour with head of CA Fish & Game and TBF team re: MPA aerial survey program which resulted in two press got tours and two stories (LA Times, KPCC).

Social Media\Website - Repurposed the 25 video stories made for the 25th Anniversary) to end the year with "25 Days to Love the Bay" promotion and created 25 individualized posts for Facebook and Twitter from Dec. 1-25, which drew eyes to our social media and attention to the Bay during a 'feel good' time of year.

Work began on the development of a new website for The Bay Foundation. Also, worked with all partner organizations to prepare an updated Ballona Restoration website

Urban Coast – Published and distributed Volume 4, Issue 1 of the journal.

Annual Report and Baywire – Developed and distributed 2013 Annual Report. Developed and distributed the BayWire newsletter to stakeholders following each Governing Board meeting.

SEACER Symposium - SMBRC co-hosted the 4th annual Urban Coastal Research Symposium on March 12th entitled "Socio-Economic Analyses of Coastal Ecosystem Resilience" at LMU with the Center for Urban Resilience. A range of speakers from throughout California presented on the results of their data and projects relating to social and economic benefits specific to coastal restoration and open space or greening projects. Presentation topics ranged from wetland restoration to Marine Protected Areas (MPA) and watershed-level greening efforts, with a total attendance of approximately 150 scientists, elected officials, members of the public, and students. A proceedings document for the symposium was written, emailed to symposium participants, and published online. Additionally, presentations were given at several regional and statewide scientific conferences.

Next Steps:

Continue publication of BayWire and Urban Coast Journal on regular basis, as well as conducting other outreach described above. Release new TBF website.

Status:

Ongoing

Task 4.2 – Continue overseeing the Boater Education and Outreach Program

Summary:

Boating Events/Presentations - Participated in six boating events and presentations to conduct face-to-face outreach and education: Sunroad Boat Show, Long Beach Singles Yacht Club meeting, Marina del Rey Marina Managers meeting, Dana Point Dockwalker Training, Marina del Rey Dockwalker Training, and Laguna Woods Yacht Club meeting. At the events, staff collected 148 boater surveys, signed up 72 new Changing Tide subscribers, distributed 438 Southern California Boater's Guide, gathered a total of \$1,133.73 in in-kind and cash match from volunteers working at the boating events and donated booth expenses.

Changing Tide Newsletter - Produced Winter 2013 and developed Spring 2014 Changing Tide newsletters. Distributed 2,467 Winter 2013 newsletters to the Southern California boating community and another 774 to email subscribers (8,000 newsletters are distributed statewide).

Southern California Boater's Guide, Digital Version 1.0 - Finalized and launched the e-book version of the Southern California Boater's Guide, which includes many interactivity features such as embedded videos, live links for GPS coordinates, websites, and phone numbers, for free on the iTunes App store (available for iPads 2.0 or above). Also developed a press release with the California State Parks Division of Boating & Waterways, and was able to receive press articles in 17 Southern California newsletters.

Southern California Tidebooks, 2014 - Finalized development and printed the 2014 version of the Southern California Tidebooks. Staff coordinated with our fulfillment company to include these Tidebooks in our 2014 Boater Packets which will be distributed by staff and volunteers during the 2014 Boating Season.

Clean Boating Packets - Finalized production and received 3,500 Clean Boating Packets to be used during the 2014 Boating Season. Distributed Boater Packets to certified volunteers (who in turn distribute to the Southern Boating Community) and distributed Boater Packets at Boating Events and Presentations.

Honey Pot Day (unlimited) - The Program offered one pre-approved Yacht Club unlimited mobile sewage pumpout service to it's members. Staff completed a final report that detailed the 2013 totals: 7,560 gallons of sewage pumped; 189 boaters participated in program. Overall, the Program was a success as boater's indicated that their participation would ensure future use of mobile pumpout services, and recommend that other boaters and consider using a mobile pumpout company. However, after several Yacht Club board meetings to consider whether or not the Yacht Club could take on the Program's financial costs, the Program was not continued after the funding was exhausted.

Pumpout Monitoring - Conducted quarterly monitoring of 67 public sewage pumpout facilities in Southern California.

Next Steps:

Continue outreach and education workplan tasks. Begin work on Digital Version 1.0 of the Southern California Boater's Guide for Smart Phones.

Status:

Ongoing

Task 4.3 – Oversee the PIE mini-grant program

Summary:

Initiation of new round of PIE program is contingent on funding availability. Continued to solicit additional funding sources and promote the program to corporations such as Southern California Edison.

Next Steps:

Continue to pursue other means of funding for additional, future rounds of PIE projects.

Status:

On hold

Task 4.4 – Participate in the PV Shelf Institutional Controls Program.

Summary:

FCEC Participation - Participate in the strategic planning session of the FCEC.

PV Shelf Superfund Investigation – Attended the meetings of the Technical Information Exchange Group and provided input on the latest results of sediment sampling conducted by EPA on the PV Shelf and the proposed new sediment sampling and fish survey. Continued to assist FCEC in evaluating result of the fish consumption study.

Next Steps:

Continue to participate and assist in FCEC and PV Shelf activities.

Status:

On-going

TASK 5. Planning, Monitoring, and Program Management

Task 5.1 – Increase funding and/or develop new financing mechanisms for BRP implementation

Summary:

General – Continued to follow up with congressional and senate staff. Continued to work with state legislative staff to monitor pending legislation that could assist with funding the SMBRC. Continued ongoing monitoring of new/introduced state legislative efforts for potential funding and policy issues relevant to the SMBRC.

Financial Strategy Development – Continued outreach to GB member organizations for soliciting annual contribution and received contributions from more watershed cities. Also working with a development consultant, finished and produced TBF's first Development piece.

Santa Monica Bay NEP 25th Anniversary Celebration Event - Successfully organized and held the celebration gala in October. With over 200 guests attending and many organizations and individuals sponsoring, the event helped to boost the name recognition of, and raise significant amount of funding for the TBF.

Outside Grant Funding - Continued to research and search for outside grant opportunities. Outside grants applied for during this reporting period include:

- The Metropolitan Water District Innovative Conservation Program grant (awarded)
- The US EPA Wetland Program Development Grant application to continue work to develop a regional strategy for Level 3 estuarine wetland monitoring
- The LA Department of Water and Power grant application to conduct outreach on energy and water conservation strategies throughout the Los Angeles Region.
- The State Coastal Conservancy Climate Ready Grant Program and Wildlife Conservation Society Climate Adaptation Fund applications for the Santa Monica Bay beach and dune habitat enhancement project
- CalRecycle's Used Oil Recycling Non-Profit Grants application for the Clean Vessel Education Program
- The US EPA Office of Environmental Justice Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement Program application for the Clean Bay Restaurant Program
- The CA Sea Grant Special Focus Award application for the sex-specific coastal movement and habitat use of the California halibut study

Next Steps:

Continue working with congressional staff to secure NEP funding. Continue to solicit member contribution and seek public and private funding opportunities.

Status:

Ongoing

Task 5.2 – Inter-agency coordination and involvement

Summary:

South Bay Outreach - Continued participation at monthly meetings of Jurisdictional Group 5&6 (South Bay cities, LA County, CalTrans).

Other - Continued work with Southern California Wetland Recovery Project Wetland Managers Group, Integrated Wetlands Regional Assessment Program, Loyola Marymount University

Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability Committee, Southern California Coastal Water Research Project, Friends of Ballona Wetlands Science and Restoration Committee, and multiple local Universities.

Continued work with multi-agency partnership to develop and coordinate the Ballona Wetlands restoration planning efforts and early access improvements, including the Department of Fish and Game, SCC, Army Corps, LA County Flood Control District, MRCA, and others.

Participated in several multi-agency programs including Resource Agency / Strategic Growth Council Urban Greening Program TAC, CalTrans /Resources Agency Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program TAC, Strategic Growth Council Sustainable Communities Program TAC, state-wide aquatic invasive species task force, Malibu Creek Ecosystem Restoration Technical Advisory Committee, Rindge Dam Technical Advisory Committee, the State Water Resources Control Board Clean Beach Task Force, the State Water Resources Control Board Biological Objective Stakeholder Group.

Coordinated with National Park Service and California Department of Parks and Recreation on a project to reintroduce the endangered California red-legged frog to multiple sites throughout the Santa Monica Mountains.

Next Steps:

Continue participation on relevant stakeholder and technical advisory groups.

Status:

Ongoing

Task 5.3 – Implement the Comprehensive Bay Monitoring Program

Summary:

Comprehensive Monitoring and State of the Bay Report – Continued working with SMBRC TAC to finalize a framework for assessing habitat health to be used in the 2015 State of the Bay Report. Met with the Los Angeles County Sanitation District and the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation, and Chevron to prepare a Comprehensive Monitoring Program Implementation Progress Report.

Continue to work with the Beach Metric Group which includes researchers from Pepperdine University and UC Santa Barbara as well as state beach management agency representatives to develop a health index for sandy intertidal habitat.

Next Steps:

Continue to facilitate CMP implementation and habitat index development.

Status:

Ongoing

Task 5.4 – BRP implementation progress tracking

Summary:

Completed update of the Bay Restoration Plan. As part of the updating process, solicited input from the Governing Board and the TAC through a series of meetings and workshops. The 2013 update also included an assessment on progress the SMBRC and our partners have made in the five years since the last update. The 2013 revised BRP incorporated many new approaches and milestones to address remaining and emerging challenges, especially those related to priority issues identified by stakeholders during the updating process.

Next Steps:

Continue tracking implementation of the newly updated BRP.

Status:

Ongoing

Task 5.5 – State of the Bay Reporting

Summary:

State of the Bay Report 2015 - Began narrowing down topics for the State of the Bay Report. Began planning workshops to conduct habitat health assessments. Solicited input at the annual Watershed Advisory Committee meeting.

Next Steps:

Continue development of the 2015 State of the Bay report. Begin collecting data, hold workshops to finalize habitat health assessments.

Status:

Ongoing

Task 5.6 – Conduct general GB support, organizational management and reporting activities

Summary:

General – Continued with basic HR and accounting tasks.

Prepared agenda and organized staff reports for Executive Committee and Governing Board meetings, TAC and MRAC meetings, as well as the annual Watershed Advisory Council meeting. Responded to GB/EC member inquiries and issues.

Coordinated Foundation board meetings, including agenda preparation, staff report organization, et al.

Continued to respond to many public record requests and state and local agency inquiries regarding SMBRC activities.

NEP Activities – Served as Chair of the ANEP. Participated in quarterly conference calls with EPA management and ANEP executive committee. Participated in the Fall ANEP meeting .

Completed and submitted EPA Performance Evaluation package including Performance Measure Worksheets, Workplan Core Elements Narrative Summary and all relevant attachments.

Next Steps:

Continue management and reporting activities. Continue providing staff support for GB, EC, TAC and MRAC.

Status:

Ongoing